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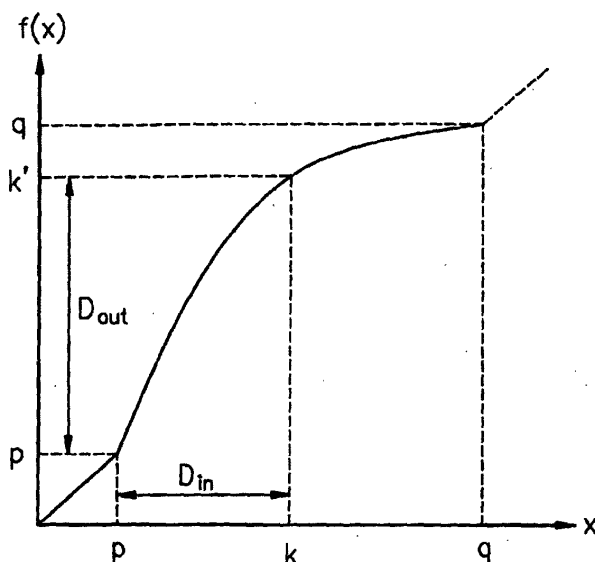
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(54) **Contrast enhancement method**

(57) The contrast of a time varying video signal is enhanced. Each digital picture ($f_n(\cdot)$) is represented by samples having gradation levels in a range from a lower limit C to an upper limit U. The mean value (m) of the gradation levels of the samples representing a first digital picture is determined. A first transform function is constructed in dependence on a distribution of samples with gradation levels less than or equal to the mean val-

ue (m). A second transform function is constructed in dependence on a distribution of the samples with gradation levels equal to or greater than the mean (m). The first transform function and the second transform function are used to form a contrast enhancement transform, which is preferably constructed in the form of a look-up table. The contrast enhancement transform is applied to a set of samples representing the first digital picture or representing the temporally subsequent picture.

FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of the search 14 January 2005	Examiner Materne, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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